TPC Group Plant Explosion and Fire Update
Port Neches, Texas
December 9, 2019 1500 Update

Incident Management Objectives:
Objective 1: Ensure the health and safety of the public and response personnel.

Objective 2: Establish an incident management structure and processes employing the Incident Command System to enable effective overall management of the event with deployment of resources (staff and equipment) in a rapid, focused and well-coordinated manner.

Objective 3: Encourage a collaborative federalism approach, where Federal, State, Tribal, and local governments interact cooperatively and collectively to solve common problems.

Objective 4: Take actions to assess the on-site and off-site impacts during the emergency response phase of this incident. Provide this information to state and local authorities to assist them in their decision to protect the local citizens.

Objective 5: Conduct activities to prevent off-site releases from the TPC facility.

Objective 6: Respond to, mitigate and recovery off-site releases from the TPC facility.

Objective 7: Maintain open communication with Regional management.

Incident Overview:
On November 27, 2019, a report was received from the National Response Center about an explosion at a facility in Port Neches, TX.

A second explosion occurred at approximately 1400 on November 27, 2019. Residents within a four-mile radius of the site were ordered to evacuate. The evacuation was lifted at 1000 on November 29, 2019.

Executive Overview:
- Starting on December 10, 2019, Unified Command will operate on a 48-hour operational period.
- On December 8, 2019, City of Port Neches, Port Neches-Groves Independent School District (ISD), the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), EPA, TCEQ, and TPC participated in a round-table discussion to address air quality concerns by the ISD. The round-table discussion was followed by a tour of the Emergency Operations Center to display the response efforts conducted by the unified command.
- Schools in Port Neches-Groves ISD reopened today, December 9, 2019. Air monitoring teams from TPC (CTEH), TCEQ, and EPA have coordinated to assure continuous community air monitoring in the area of the schools and respond with additional monitoring team resources when readings above the action level are detected.

- On the evening of December 9, 2019, EPA, ATSDR, and TPC will participate in Port Neches-Groves ISD board meeting.
- The ATSDR team continues to provide support, engage local health officials, and address human-health related concerns.
- The low-volume and low-pressure fires reported by TPC on December 6, 2019, continue to burn. The fires are fueled by what appears to be hydrogen reactors at the Site.
- CTEH has continued air monitoring in the work area for 1,3-butadiene:
    - Conducted 629 air monitoring readings from 1430 on December 6, 2019 thru 1430 on December 7, 2019. 41 detections were recorded with a maximum reading of 2.38 ppm.
    - Conducted 650 air monitoring readings from 1430 on December 7, 2019 thru 1430 on December 8, 2019. 22 detections were recorded with a maximum reading of 0.62 ppm.
    - Conducted 630 air monitoring readings from 1430 on December 8, 2019 thru 1430 on December 9, 2019. Fifteen detections were recorded with a maximum reading of 0.91 ppm.
- CTEH has continued air monitoring in the community for 1,3-butadiene:
    - Conducted 2,078 air monitoring readings from 1430 on December 6, 2019 thru 1430 on December 7, 2019. No detections were recorded.
    - Conducted 2,110 air monitoring readings from 1430 on December 7, 2019 thru 1430 on December 8, 2019. 50 detections were recorded with a maximum reading of 0.48 ppm.
    - Conducted 2,256 air monitoring readings from 1430 on December 8, 2019 thru 1430 on December 9, 2019. Four detections were recorded with a maximum reading of 0.5 ppm.
- ASPECT conducted a fly-over of the site at noon on December 7, 2019 and isobutylene was detected at a concentration of 1.63 part per million (ppm) which is less than the TCEQ short-term Air Monitoring Comparison Values of 270 ppm. The report indicates that the winds at the time of the measurement were from the north and not downwind of the facility. ASPECT was not able to conduct a fly-over on December 8, 2019 and December 9, 2019, due to unfavorable weather conditions.
- EPA continued community handheld air monitoring from December 7, 2019 thru December 9, 2019. No concentrations above the action level have been detected in the community since December 5, 2019.
- EPA continued daily surface water sampling from December 7, 2019 thru December 9, 2019. EPA collected 5 surface water samples in the affected canal up to the Neches River and 1 surface water sample upstream of the incident.
- TPC continues responding to reports to the hotline for recovering debris from the explosions. To date, TPC reports approximately 65 homes have had the debris removed and sampled.
- As of December 9, 2019, no new calls to the Wildlife Hotline have been reported in the past 60 hours. The Wildlife Response Services contractor has been stood down at the recommendation of the Wildlife team.
- A Shoreline Cleanup Assessment Technique (SCAT) team continued daily assessments from December 7, 2019 thru December 9, 2019, along the 201 Canal and Star Lake Canal. The teams included state and facility representation.
- On December 9, 2019, EPA, TCEQ, and Texas Parks and Wildlife approved the Unified Command Cleanup transition, endpoint and final assessment protocol plan developed by the SCAT Coordinator.
- On December 9, 2019, EPA reminded TPC to provide the tank assessment status for each tank on the Site.

Resources as of 1500 on December 9, 2019

	EPA	Contractors
Port Neches	3	13
Off site	3	7